

Aviation Advisory Committee
November 28, 2007
Milton, Florida

The Aviation Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Chairman Carlos Diaz, and members Marty Martin, Mike Harris, and Clay McCutchan. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and Administrative Services Manager (Tammy Simmons). Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Martin moved approval of the minutes from the October 10, 2006 meeting; McCutchan seconded, and the vote carried unanimously. (4-0)

Chairman/Member Issues

Martin said he is still trying to locate the name of the banner towing company operating in the area. He said he observed the banner towing aircraft flying between PJC (Pensacola Junior College) and Spencer Field. Martin said he is concerned because the banner towing aircraft was flying close to the Navy's helicopter course. He said he wants to make sure the banner towing aircraft is aware of the Navy's operations in the area. Diaz said he may possibly know who owns the banner towing aircraft. There was discussion on banner towing services in the area. Martin said the Navy only wants to contact the aircraft owner to make sure he or she is aware of the Navy's presence and mission in the area. He discussed air traffic in the area, and said he will contact the aircraft owner if someone will find out who the owner is.

McCutchan said he felt most people do not understand course rules of NAS Whiting Field's training. He said it may be a good idea to post the course rules at FBOs (Fixed Base Operator) in the area. Martin said NAS Whiting Field's course rules were posted at Peter Prince Airport. He said he does not know why they were taken down. Martin said he will send copies of the NAS Whiting Field course rules to FBOs in the area.

Pensacola Flight Watch, Inc.

Dale Holbert said runway 1735 is completely reopened and everything is functional. He said he was informed that the airfield lighting at Pensacola Regional Airport has reverted to pilot control. Holbert said he assumes lighting reverts to pilot control after the tower is closed at night.

Holbert said he is not aware of any safety issues at Peter Prince Airport.

Holbert gave an update on the Aviation Discovery Park at Pensacola Regional Airport. He said the park is close to being completed. Holbert said he is hoping the radios that were promised will be installed soon. He said the park is being utilized quite a bit. Holbert discussed everything currently available in the Aviation Discovery Park.

FBO Issues

Diaz said he is not aware of any specific FBO issues. He said the gate at Peter Prince Airport is working. Diaz said Peter Prince Airport is very busy with training Navy students. He said he wants to make sure everyone is aware of the increased student air traffic.

Diaz asked if hangar inspections have been completed. Simmons said yes. Diaz asked if the data is available. Simmons said no. She said she does not have all the inspections back yet. Walker said hangar compliance is getting better. He said the County Attorney has engaged in some hangar evictions and corrective actions. Walker said staff will have the hangar inspection information at the next Aviation Advisory Committee meeting.

Walker said the Board of County Commissioners approved Theodore Elbert as the newly appointed Aviation Advisory Committee member. He said Elbert will be at the next meeting. Walker said Aviation Advisory Committee member Bryon Woram submitted his resignation. He said Commissioner Salter will be making an appointment for Woram's replacement. Walker said Martin's replacement should be joining the Aviation Advisory Committee in the near future. Martin said the new Whiting Field representative will be taking over Martin's position next week, and the new representative will be transitioning onto the Aviation Advisory Committee soon thereafter. He said he will introduce the new Whiting Field representative to staff as soon as he can.

Review of Proposed Hangar Lease

Diaz asked if any Aviation Advisory Committee members have comments on the new proposed hangar lease. McCutchan said he likes the new proposed hangar lease. He said he has questions about section 1.d. pertaining to non-flyable aircraft. There was discussion on the 1 year time limit for experimental aircraft. Diaz said he wants a hangar lease that encourages flight at Peter Prince Airport. He said he does not want to be known as the airport that evicts hangar lease holders. Diaz said the lease needs to be pilot friendly as well as Peter Prince Airport friendly. He said he felt the proposed lease gives ample time to work on an airplane and has an extension option for unforeseen delays. Harris asked if the proposed lease promotes the intent of the airport. He said he does not want to see someone tying up a hangar for an aircraft that is never flown. Blaylock said he is concerned that there are people with flyable aircraft that do not have a hangar to store their aircraft in while there are other people with non-flyable aircraft that have a hangar. McCutchan said he felt experimental aircraft should be built at home and then when flyable, brought to the airport. Diaz said he felt the 1 year time limit is generous, especially with the extension option.

McCutchan asked if the committee wants to send the proposed hangar lease to the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) and AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) for review. Diaz said no.

Diaz said he has an issue with section 1.a. pertaining to the 60 day time limit for acquiring registration for an aircraft. He said it can take up to 120 days for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) to send a permanent registration after an aircraft owner sends in their temporary registration. There was discussion on the length of time it takes to get the permanent registration from the FAA. Simmons said potential hangar lessees submit a copy of the registration application, but that is not proof that the registration application was ever sent to the FAA. Diaz said he does not want to hold potential hangar lessees accountable for a

delay by the FAA. He said he would like the 60 days changed to 120 days with proof that registration has been submitted to the FAA.

Martin asked when the hangar lessee has to notify the County that they need an extension to get their aircraft flyable. He said he felt the lessee should have to notify the County before their time limit expires. Diaz said "prior to deadline" can be added to the lease. Harris asked Simmons how long of a notice she needs if an extension is needed. Simmons said setting a specific date for an extension request is up to the Aviation Advisory Committee. She said her records will indicate when a lease has expired, and county staff will confront the lessee about the expired lease. Simmons said she felt the proposed lease is clear about lessees needing to request needed extensions prior to expiration of the lease. She said if a lessee does not request an extension, staff will send a letter notifying the lessee their lease has expired. Martin said the reason for adding a statement in the lease concerning when an extension request needs to be submitted is to avoid staff having to send out lease expiration letters. Walker said county staff currently notifies a lessee if their lease expires. He said it is not a problem for county staff to send these notices. Diaz said he is concerned there may be safety issues in requiring a lessee to have an aircraft flyable within a certain amount of time. Walker said county staff always has discretion in giving as many extensions as necessary. He said as long as progress is being made extensions can be given. Harris asked how many inspections are done per year. Simmons said two. She said staff sees if progress is being made when inspections are completed. Simmons discussed experimental aircraft currently being built at Peter Prince Airport.

McCutchan moved to approve the hangar lease agreement as proposed with the amended 120 day time limit to acquire a permanent registration; Harris seconded, and the vote carried unanimously. (4-0)

Blaylock asked about corporate hangar lessees being required to store aircraft in the hangar for a certain percentage of the year. Diaz asked if the hangar lease approved tonight will be the same lease used for corporate hangars. Simmons said yes. Harris said he thought the requirement for an aircraft to be stored in a hangar for 9 months out of the year was removed from the hangar lease agreement. Diaz said the 9 month requirement was rephrased in the hangar lease agreement. Blaylock said he is concerned with this requirement because corporate aircraft typically have hangars in multiple airports. McCutchan said he felt this requirement should apply to corporate hangars. He said the airport needs corporate aircraft that will utilize airport services on a regular basis. Martin asked if corporate aircraft hauling parts to a company in the Santa Rosa County Industrial Park is the same as operating commercially. He said he felt it is commercial activity.

Martin said he felt there should be a separate hangar lease for corporate hangars. Diaz said he thought corporate hangars had a different lease. He asked staff to create a separate hangar lease for corporate hangars.

Harris asked how county staff determines military status in regards to sections of the hangar lease that deal with military personnel. Martin said military orders must be presented to prove military status.

Other Business

McCutchan asked the status of damaged aircraft at Peter Prince Airport. Diaz said there is a damaged aircraft parked between hangars C and D. Holbert said he inquired about the aircraft between hangars C and D and was informed that someone bought that aircraft to sell its parts. There was discussion on who owns the aircraft. Blaylock said staff will look into this aircraft. Diaz said he will talk with the person he believes is the owner to see what his intentions are for the aircraft. McCutchan said he does not want parted out aircraft sitting out in the open at the airport. He asked if parting out the aircraft is considered conducting business. Diaz said the aircraft will not be allowed to be parked permanently between the two hangars. McCutchan said he is concerned with the length of time the damaged aircraft has already been at the airport. Holbert suggested sending a letter to the owner requesting answers to what is planned for the aircraft and how long the aircraft will be located on the premises. He said this aircraft is very visible from the road. Diaz said he will personally contact the owner of the aircraft to resolve this matter. McCutchan asked if there are any other damaged aircraft sitting in the open at Peter Prince Airport. Diaz said he is not sure. He said he will check the next time he is at the airport.

McCutchan asked the status of the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) building. Walker said Civil Air Patrol wants to demolish the CAP building, but they want to retain the lease on the site to rebuild. Walker said this will be discussed at the December 13, 2007 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

McCutchan asked about corporate hangars being rented to groups of individuals. Walker said the County Attorney expressed concern for liability of damage with group rentals. He said the County Attorney is working on proposals for corporate hangars. Diaz asked if an individual can rent a corporate hangar at the corporate rate. Simmons said yes. McCutchan asked if corporate hangars can be rented to an aviation club if the club states they will cover liability. Blaylock said there are still liability issues. Diaz said he felt there are too many issues with group rentals. He said he would like to try to attract corporate clients for use of the corporate hangars. Diaz said he felt an individual should be able to temporarily rent a corporate hangar if they are willing to pay the full corporate rate. Holbert asked if an individual who owns three aircraft can rent a corporate hangar for the storage of all three aircraft. Walker said yes.

Diaz asked about moving the runway end lights to extend the runway to 4,000 feet. He said corporations express interest in Peter Prince Airport until they are told the runway is only 3,750 feet. Diaz said the runway is 4,000 feet but the end lights need to be moved to 4,000 feet. Blaylock said extending the runway is more complicated than moving the end lights. Diaz said the runway not being at least 4,000 feet deters corporate clients because insurance prohibits corporations from using runways less than 4,000 feet. Blaylock said there is a lot of work that would have to be done to extend the runway. He said the GPS (Global Positioning System) approach may be a problem. There was discussion on impediments of extending the runway. Diaz said he will get data on the feasibility of extending the runway. Blaylock suggested Diaz look at the Master Plan for Peter Prince Airport. Diaz said he felt there is plenty of room for the extension without affecting safety. He said he will get data and the committee can discuss this item at a future meeting.

Martin said the T34 hours for fiscal year 2008 have increased by approximately 10,000 hours. He said he will let the committee know Whiting Field's holiday hours at the next meeting.

Blaylock said the hangar contract has been awarded, and the hangars are under design. He said the hangars should be completed by the end of June. Holbert said he thought the contractor only had 280 days to complete the hangars. Blaylock said the contractor has 280 days from the NTP (Notice to

Proceed). McCutchan asked if the new lease agreement will be in place before the new hangars are leased out. Blaylock said yes. He said staff is looking at a new lease structure, and the new hangars will be leased at a higher rate than the current hangars. There was discussion on increasing hangar rates at Peter Prince Airport.

McCutchan asked if the Board of County Commissioners take recommendations for Aviation Advisory Committee members. Walker said yes. Holbert discussed new Aviation Advisory Committee member Theodore Elbert. He said Elbert should be at the next meeting.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Aviation Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 19, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Aviation Advisory Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.